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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1900.—SIXTEEN PAGES.

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THE Prince of Wales adopted the idea  
of serving drinks at the club for  
the gentlemen at Sandringham some  
time ago. When the prince opened  
the club for there is no public  
club at Sandringham—he decided that  
members should be allowed to have  
a pint of beer, in order that the  
prince on the estate should not spend  
much on liquor.

## LEAKAGE IS DECREASING

The Sewer Contractors Make Statement.

## SEEPAGE IS THE CAUSE

Territory Retains Fifteen Per Cent of the Price Until Completed.

THE sewer contractors say official-  
ly that the leakage in the com-  
pleted system has been reduced  
33 1-3 per cent from the original 3 per  
cent of leakage known when the gov-  
ernment took the work over. This  
leakage has occurred in the districts  
where the mains have been laid ten  
and twelve feet below the sea level.

By the terms of the contract which  
is an iron-clad agreement, compelling  
the contractors to stop all leaks with-  
in the next six months, the govern-  
ment retains 15 per cent on the con-  
tract price, thus guaranteeing to the  
public that the contractors will fulfill  
their agreement to the letter. In view  
of the decided lessening of the leakage  
yesterday, Mr. Vincent said last evening  
to an Advertiser representative that  
the statements made in an even-  
ing paper signed "Taxpayer," are  
without foundation, when the technical  
facts are clearly understood in regard  
to what constitutes leakage in sewer  
systems.

"On behalf of Mr. Belser and myself  
I would like to say that if this anony-  
mous writer who dubs himself 'Tax-  
payer' wishes information regarding  
sewers and will give me his name I  
will gladly furnish him with informa-  
tion from leading works and authori-  
ties to show to him that it is impos-  
sible when a system is first completed  
to make it absolutely water tight.

"With reference to the leakage of  
3 per cent, I will say that is not con-  
sidered excessive in similar systems.  
The leaks in this system on the final  
examination were a little under 3 per  
cent. The water was measured today,  
and it was found that has already fallen  
33 1-3 per cent on the original leakage  
found. So the leakage is actually  
now only about 2 per cent.

"At the same time this examination  
was made there were not over a dozen  
leaks of any size to be found, and they  
were not considered large enough to  
attempt to fix or repair in any way,  
as they will stop themselves. This  
leakage is merely a seepage into the  
general system which finds its way  
down to the sump at the pumping sta-  
tion.

"The leakage is in the pipe which is  
far below sea-level, and was laid di-  
rectly in water. There is three miles  
of such piping, and some of it is sub-  
jected to a pressure of five pounds to  
the square inch. That is where the  
main leakage occurs.

"I don't think that residents here  
generally understand what is meant by  
leakages. This means that where the  
pipe is laid in water, through some  
imperfection, whether in the pipe  
itself, or improper adjustments of  
pipe lengths, the water in which the  
pipe is laid seeps into the mains and  
courses down into the sewer sump at  
the pumping station. That is how we  
measure the leakage—by the amount  
of water which comes into the reser-  
voir.

"On our part, we consider that the  
Superintendent of Public Works has  
taken more than reasonable precau-  
tion to protect the city's interests. The  
terms of our contract provide that if  
there were any repairs needed within  
six months of the completion of the  
system we would be required to do  
that without expense to the city, and  
even if the sewer had been tight, we  
would have had to fix it later on.  
There are many places in town badly  
in need of sewer connections, but be-  
fore the Superintendent of Public  
Works would consent to having the  
system used, the cost of pumping this  
extra water which seeps into the  
mains was estimated for the next six  
months, and this we agreed to pump  
out without expense to the city. For  
instance, we measured the amount of  
water running into the system from  
the leaks. The amount of this seepage  
will be taken into consideration when  
the sewer is in full operation, and the  
cost of pumping that water out  
through the outfall will devolve  
upon us.

"In the meantime the Territory re-  
tains 15 per cent of the contract price,  
which is more than sufficient to en-  
tirely reconstruct those portions of the  
sewer which 'Taxpayer' has criti-  
cized."

The system to which Mr. Vincent re-  
fers is fifteen miles in extent, and  
includes all that district bounded by the  
waterfront, River, Berte-landia and Ka-  
piolani, known as the "business dis-  
trict." It is otherwise known in the  
contract as District No. 1. All that  
portion in Palama for which funds  
were available, is finished. This runs  
from King street bridge along King  
street to Liliha, up Liliha to School  
street.

The portion that will have to wait  
for an appropriation of funds by the  
coming Legislature is that in Kewalo,  
and all of the section along Puncchbow  
above Berte-landia, from Puncchbow  
to Nuuanu Stream, which was originally

to run up as far as Judd street, and  
all of Palama except King and Liliha  
streets. Money will be needed for the  
completion of these districts.

Permits will be issued at once for  
thirty business places to be chosen by  
the Board of Health which they con-  
sidered imperative for public health.  
to be connected with the mains. This  
work will commence today.

Electricians Organize.  
The electricians of Honolulu met  
last night to talk over the formation  
of a local union of the National Broth-  
erhood of Electrical Workers. The  
following temporary officers were  
elected: President, Charles McManus;  
vice president, R. O'Connell; financial  
secretary, W. F. Dunn; treasurer, R.  
J. Berger; inspector, C. S. Fraser;  
foreman, W. McChesney.

Governor Dole Wanted.  
A subpoena was issued for the ap-  
pearance of Governor Dole in the Cir-  
cuit Court in the case of Carrie Kaai  
vs. Ernest Kaai, libel for divorce. As  
the Governor had left the day previous-  
ly for Kauai, Deputy Sheriff Chilling-  
worth was obliged to send in the fol-  
lowing:

Due and diligent search has been  
made for the within-named Sanford R.  
Dole, but he cannot be found. I am re-  
liably informed that he is now on the  
Island of Kauai.

This subpoena is returned unserved  
this 12th day of December, A. D. 1900.

## MYSTERY NOT YET SOLVED

No Coroner's Inquest In Schneider Case.

Owing to the press of police business  
yesterday the coroner did not hold an  
inquest over the body of Miss Clara  
Schneider, who died under peculiar cir-  
cumstances at her beach residence now  
occupied by Paul Neumann and family,  
and where the decedent was employed  
as a domestic.

Mystery still shrouds the death of the  
young woman, although it is certain  
that her death was caused by opium  
poison. The contents of the stomach  
which were examined by Territorial  
Chemist Shorey revealed traces of the  
alkaloid poison and this will be as-  
signed as the cause of her demise.

The question arises whether Miss  
Schneider committed suicide, received  
the morphine accidentally or whether  
it was placed in her food by some de-  
signing person.

Dr. Shorey has discovered that the  
food in the stomach was in a very  
fresh condition, such as he would ex-  
pect to find in a person's stomach im-  
mediately after a meal, and he has rea-  
son to believe that the morphine was  
taken with the food, or immediately  
thereafter, thus arresting the action of  
the stomach to a certain extent in as-  
similating the foods.

## THE MUSIC DREW A LARGE CROWD

W. W. Dimond and Company's Usual Christmas Concert.

A newcomer might have thought  
there was a sensation brewing last  
night at the store of W. W. Dimond &  
Company on King street. A crowd of  
well-dressed people, men, women and  
children, filled the sidewalk opposite  
Dimond's and the store itself was  
thronged with them. One would have  
learned the cause of the gathering in a  
stay of a few minutes near Dimond's,  
for at short intervals the quintet club's  
music came from the veranda on the  
second floor and the delightful music  
and soft voices of the Hawaiians  
proved an irresistible attraction for Ho-  
nolulans.

Of course music at Dimond's on the  
evenings before Christmas is not a new  
departure. Five years have made it an  
established pleasure that is looked for-  
ward to by many. William Dimond  
said last night that it would be impos-  
sible to discontinue the custom now, as  
the friends of the firm would take it ill.  
He said that business this year was  
better than in '99, though owing to the  
taking off of the duty on American  
manufactures most things were cheaper  
than before.

Buying in great quantities, the firm,  
through its influential foreign connec-  
tions, was enabled to get a figure on  
foreign wares that surprised many in-  
tending purchasers.

"There is much new in glass and  
china these days," said Mr. Dimond.  
"We have as usual put the staples up-  
stairs for the holidays and have filled  
the first floor with the beautiful things  
that delight Christmas shoppers. Last  
year, owing to the plague and the con-  
sequent restrictions, people waited un-  
til a few days before Christmas to buy  
and then for three days we were al-  
most swamped. This year the buyers  
are coming right along and we are thus  
able to give them all the time they  
want and to show our stock to better  
advantage. By the last few steamers  
we have received some novelties in  
tableware, lamps and decorative pieces  
that ought to please. Our store will be  
open every night now until Christmas  
and we can handle all our trade in good  
style."

## SALAMANDER MYSTERIES

Papa Ita's Art Viewed By Savants.

## ISLAND FIRE WALKERS

Accounts of Those Who Have Seen and Studied the Secret Marvels.

THE publication in the Advertiser  
of the presence in Honolulu of  
one of the marvelous fire walk-  
ers of Tahiti has aroused intense in-  
terest. Students of mystic lore and  
Polynesian antiquities and customs  
have been brushing up their reading  
on the subject. Papa Ita, the aged  
Tahitian, who claims to be one of the  
modern salamanders, is awaiting in a  
private home here the making ready  
of a place for his curious exhibition.

The feat which Papa Ita will accom-  
plish if his gods and spirits do not fail  
him, is not a new one, for it is a cus-  
tom descended from the ancients of his  
own islands, and hundreds of years  
ago very similar ceremonies were held  
by the people of South India. Fire-  
walking was also a feature of old  
Egyptian festivals and religious occa-  
sions.

How it is done, or what the secret  
of its accomplishment, no one has  
ever been able to say, but reliable au-  
thorities state that there is nothing of  
the fake element about the perform-  
ance. It is an undeniable fact that the  
fire-walkers do walk on fire, and if  
by other means than the power given  
them through the spirits which they  
summon with their ti-leaf wands, peo-  
ple who have witnessed the ceremony  
have been unable, even by the keenest  
observation and closest study, to dis-  
cover what.

On the island of Maritius the fire-  
walking ceremony is a part of the an-  
nual festival, and is performed every  
year. Fire-walking has been referred  
to by writers on the subject as "The  
Maritius Miracle," and it is a matter  
of record that at one time the gov-  
ernor of the Fiji Islands, hearing that  
some of his guests were incredulous,  
caused the ceremony to be performed  
for the vice-regal party, before about  
five hundred native spectators.

The Polynesian Society have given  
much attention to the question recent-  
ly in its quarterly journals, and a late  
number contains an interesting arti-  
cle on the subject written by Miss  
Teira Henry, of Kukui street, this  
city. Miss Henry was herself born in  
Tahiti and lived there a number of  
years, and her article aroused much  
comment from able writers and people  
who had been eye-witnesses of the  
ceremony. Miss Henry gives a full  
account of the performance, with a  
translation of the incantations accom-  
panying the feat. According to her  
account the fire-walking is a ceremony  
that goes with the feast of ti-root, per-  
formed when the huge oven is made  
ready for the baking of the feast.

In an excavation some thirty feet  
across, both ways, logs and sticks are  
piled, and the stones are placed on top.  
The logs are then set fire underneath,  
and within a period of twenty-four  
hours have burned low, leaving the  
stones at white heat, ready for the  
baking of the ti-root feast. It is then  
that the sorcerer calls upon his spirits,  
summoning them with his ti-leaf  
wand, and calling upon them in the  
chant of incantation:

"O, spirits who heated the oven! Let  
it die out! Oh, dark earth-worms; Oh,  
light earth-worms! Fresh water and  
salt water, heat of the oven, and red-  
ness of the oven, hold up the footstep  
of the walkers, and fan the heat of the  
bed; Oh, cold beings! Let us lie in the  
midst of the oven! Oh, Great Woman-  
who-sets-fire-to-the-skies! Hold the  
fan, and let us go into the oven for a  
little while!"

Still chanting, the leader steps into  
the oven and walks over the stones,  
followed by the people who are to par-  
take of the feast, waving the wand,  
and circling about over the stones,  
without burn or pain.

The "Great-Woman-who-sets-fire-to-  
the-skies" is the leading spirit of the  
fire-walkers, and to her is attributed  
the possession of the dread lightning  
and thunderbolt.

Miss Henry does not attempt to ex-  
plain the miraculous performance, but  
leaves the solution of the surprising  
feat to scientists. Her statement is  
merely the statement of an eye-wit-  
ness.

A Mr. Hastwell, in a San Francisco  
pamphlet, gives the following account:  
"The natives of Raiatea have some  
performances so entirely out of the  
ordinary course of events as to insti-  
tute inquiry as to proper solution. On  
the 20th of September, 1885, I witness-  
ed the wonderful, and to me inexplic-  
able, performance of passing through  
the 'Fiery Furnace.' The furnace  
that I saw was an excavation of three  
or four feet in the ground, of circular  
form, sloping upward, and about thirty  
feet across. The excavation was filled  
with logs and wood, and then covered  
with large stones. A fire was built  
underneath and kept burning for about  
a day. When I witnessed it, on the  
second day, the flames were pouring  
up through interstices of the rocks,  
which were heated to a red and white

heat. When everything was in readi-  
ness, and the furnace still pouring out  
its intense heat, the natives marched  
up, with bare feet, to the edge of the  
furnace, where they halted for a mo-  
ment, and after a few passes of the  
wand, made of the branches of the  
ti plant by the leader, who repeated a  
few words in the native language, they  
stepped down on the rocks, and walked  
leisurely across to the other side, step-  
ping from stone to stone. This was  
repeated five times, without any prepa-  
ration whatever on their feet, and  
without injury or discomfort from the  
heated stones. There was not even the  
smell of fire on their garments."

Another account is given by a mem-  
ber of a party who witnessed a fire-  
walking ceremony in South India. One  
of the ladies put her handkerchief on  
the shoulder of one of the performers  
as he was entering the oven. The  
handkerchief turned brown, and  
would have burned up, being of deli-  
cate lace, had it not been snatched  
by another member of the party. This  
was given as an example of the in-  
tensity of the heat arising from the  
stones, and which appeared not to af-  
fect the performers in the least.

Another eye-witness in an article in  
the Journal says: "I interviewed a  
few of those who took part in the  
ceremony as to whether they felt any  
pain in walking over the fire, or  
whether they protected their feet by  
rubbing them with any juice of plants,  
as asserted by people who find it diffi-  
cult to believe the possibility of walk-  
ing over fire without being burnt. My  
suggestion was received with resent-  
ment, and was considered profane. One  
young man questioned me in aston-  
ishment as to what greater protection  
could be needed than the protection  
of the goddess, in whose saving power  
he had the highest faith. He explained,  
however, that the time of actual  
walking the majority of the perform-  
ers are beside themselves with relig-  
ious fervor, and feel absolutely no  
burning sensation while crossing the  
fire, and all the after effects amount  
but to a feeling similar to that caused  
by being pricked with a pin."

I am entirely satisfied that this fire-  
walking is no fraud, perpetrated by  
professional people. In the first place  
there can be absolutely no unworthy  
motives for so many people of different  
castes and families combining together  
for such a dangerous performance as  
this. Besides, people of all ages from  
eight to seventy and more, take part  
in it, a circumstance which makes a  
combination of the kind at all events  
improbable, if not impossible."

Another writer refers to fire-walking  
the "Raiatean Ceremony," having  
closely studied the performances at  
Raiatea. "This strange ceremony con-  
nected with the ti-oven," he writes,  
"used to be practiced by the heathen  
priests. It consists in causing people  
to walk barefooted and unprotected  
over the heated stones unharmed, not  
even the skin being blistered. It is  
rarely performed nowadays, but was  
recently witnessed by all the white  
residents of the place, as well as the  
French officers who were present to  
see the ceremony. Fire-walking at the  
feasts, alleged to be by the power of  
protecting spirits, is still frequently  
practiced in New Zealand."

Much has been said and written of  
fire-walking, and many theories have  
been advanced as to how it is done,  
but so far there has been no satisfac-  
tory explanation offered. There is no  
doubt but that the feat has been done,  
and is still being done among the na-  
tives of the Tahitian Islands, in South  
India and other places, and it offers  
an entertaining task to materialists  
and scientists, in the unraveling of the  
mystery. The weirdness of the incan-  
tations, the ignorance and superstition  
of the performers, and the miraculous  
wonder of the feat surrounds the per-  
formance with a strangeness and mys-  
tery that stands out in the lucid at-  
mosphere of the nineteenth century,  
baffling and inexplicable.

Papa Ita is now preparing for the  
ordeal. The coming event has aroused  
the people of Hawaii to an intense  
pitch of interest. In many years noth-  
ing like it has been performed here  
approaching the wonder of the propos-  
ed exhibition, and Papa Ita promises  
to out-kahuna the kahunas. Papa Ita  
claims that his preparations are very  
simple, so far as physical training is  
concerned. His troubles are as to ar-  
rangements for his oven and accom-  
modations for his audience.

The widespread excitement caused  
by the promised exhibition has made  
Papa Ita and his sorcery a common  
topic of conversation, and the occasion  
of the exhibition probably bring  
together a concourse greater in number  
than any event for a number of years.

## CHINESE REGISTRATION.

Old Stone Barracks To Be the Scene of Work.

The old stone headquarters, formerly  
the barracks of the Household Guards  
during the monarchy and of the regu-  
lar troops during the regime of the Repu-  
blic of Hawaii until the latter part of  
the year 1898, have been taken over by  
the United States Internal Revenue De-  
partment for the purpose of registering  
all the Chinese of Honolulu.

Captain Slaker, United States Army  
Quartermaster, who has charge of the  
barracks, which are now under the  
control of the War Department, gave  
his consent to W. F. C. Hasson, Acting  
Revenue Collector, to use the building  
for the object specified in the latter's  
request. The use of the drill shed was  
denied by Governor Dole, as it is con-  
stantly in use by the National Guard.  
The building will be ready for occupa-  
tion about the first of the year and the  
systematic registration of Honolulu's  
Chinese will commence, as required by  
the United States laws. The work here  
will take not less than half a year, and  
the work on the other Islands will be  
done by the agents of the Department.

## VERSES ON HAWAII NEI

"Crums 'of Comfort" By Miss Felker.

## A PRETTY COMPILATION

Clever New Book of Selections By the Well-Known Honolulu Teacher.

THE NEW little book, "Crums of  
Comfort" (The Whitaker & Ray  
Company, publishers, San Fran-  
cisco), by Miss Allie M. Felker, is in-  
deed just what the title implies.

"Crums of Comfort" has been placed  
simultaneously on sale in the book  
stores of New York, Chicago, San Fran-  
cisco and Honolulu. It contains selec-  
tions from standard authors, contribu-  
tions from popular writers and several  
original poems. It is prettily bound in  
blue cloth and is lettered in gold.

Such names as the following vouch  
for its quality: Rudyard Kipling, Fran-  
ces Ridley Havergal, Charles Edwin  
Markham, Osmer Abbott, Browning,  
Emerson, Longfellow, Tennyson, Thom-  
as Moore, Charlotte Bronte, Eugene  
Field, Dryden, J. G. Holland, Frances  
Sunol Angus, Drummond, James Whit-  
comb Riley, Anna B. Tucker, and the  
talented compiler.

One bit of common sense "Comfort"  
by Charles Dickens is worth remember-  
ing:

Nothing can be won without anxiety  
and care.

The men who learn endurance are  
they who call the whole world brother.

How much great minds have suffered  
for truth in every age and time!

The hardest and best-borne trials are  
those which are never chronicled in  
any earthly record.

I know that we must trust and hope,  
and neither doubt ourselves nor doubt  
the good in one another.

This world is a world for action, not  
for moping and dreading in.

Things cannot turn up of themselves.  
We must, in a measure, assist them to  
turn up.

Cheerfulness and content are great  
beautifiers, and are famous preservers  
of good looks.

Many happy new years, unbroken  
friendship, great accumulation of  
cheerful recollections, affection on  
earth, and heaven at last, for all of us.

This "Receipt for Good Times," from  
the "Select Friend," may be found as  
desirable here as on the Mainland:

Cheer up. Keep cool.  
Joke as often as possible.  
Put your best foot forward.  
Have faith and struggle on.

Think of the sunshine of life, not its  
clouds.

Think, after all, how short life is, and  
make the best of it.

Walk erect like an honest man, not  
stooped over like a thief.

Consult Mark Twain rather than  
Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy."

Pay your bills promptly, and that will  
help some other struggler in the battle  
of life.

Find one more unfortunate than your-  
self, and content will find the place of  
complaint.

Dress neatly. Some men foolishly  
suppose the harder they look, the  
more sympathy they will receive. It is  
just the reverse.

The little book is full of quaint say-  
ings, of useful quotations, of tiny gems  
of thought, of hopeful verse and cheer-  
ing words. It will amuse, instruct and  
help one from its cosmopolitanism, its  
broadness, and its kindly sympathy. It  
is good for the soul to reach out and  
feel the great truths culled from many  
great minds.

A Prayer, by Charles Edwin Mark-  
ham, will be found strong and uplift-  
ing. The following, by Anna B. Tuck-  
er, is no doubt familiar to many Ho-  
nolulans, but a few verses are here pre-  
sented, nevertheless:

Dear Waikiki,  
The sunny beach of Waikiki  
Is dear to me.  
The blues and purples of the sea,  
The cocoa palm and kiawe tree,  
Mean home to me.

The natives fishing near the shore  
Are friends of yore.  
Their childlike prattle as they stand